

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04903 131146Z

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET NAVAL FACILITIES

REF: PARA 5, CAIRO 4297

1. ACCORDING VP MUBARAK, APRIL 12, SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE MADE A SECOND CALL ON GAMASY A FEW DAYS AGO TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MATTERS HAVING TO DO WITH SOVIET NAVAL FACILITIES. SPECIFICALLY,
(A) SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE STATED USSR WISHES TO TAKE AWAY THE "LANDING PLATFORM" IT HAS HAD AT MERSA MATRUH. (WE THINK HE MEANS FLOATING PIER.) GAMASY AGREED TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNOR OF MERSA MATRUH TO PERMIT THIS.
(B) SOVIET MILATT ALSO AGAIN RAISED THE MATTER OF THE "UNSERVICEABLE" SOVIET VESSELS STILL BEING WORKED ON AT THE ALEXANDRIA NAVAL FACILITIES. DESPITE FRENETIC ACTIVITY BY EGYPTIAN WORKERS TO COMPLETE NEEDED WORK, HE EXPLAINED IT NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ALL FOUR VESSELS CAN BE READY BY APRIL 15. HE AGAIN ASKED IF GOE WOULD BE WILLING EXTEND SOVIET USE OF THESE FACILITIES UNTIL STILL UNDONE WORK ON THE REMAINING VESSELS IS FINISHED. GAMASY REPORTEDLY AGAIN TOLD HIM THAT, IF ANY SOVIET SUBMARINES OR WAR SHIPS ARE STILL IN ALEXANDRIA NAVAL YARD AFTER APRIL 15, THEY WILL BE TREATED LIKE "ANY

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 04903 131146Z

OTHER FOREIGN SHIPS". MUBARAK CLAIMED SOVIET MILATTACHE

HAD AGAIN SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF REFUSAL, SOVIET SHIPS WILL BE TAKEN OUT. (WE HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE IDENTIFY TWO FOXTROT CLASS SUBMARINES AND ONE SOVIET NAVAL TUG BEING OVERHAULED AT AL-GABBARI NAVAL YARD. WE ARE ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN WHAT FOURTH VESSEL MAY BE. IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WORK ON ALL THESE VESSELS WILL NOT BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 15.)

2. ON A RELATED MATTER, MUBARAK ALSO OPINED SOVIETS WILL BE "FURIOUS" ABOUT GAMASY'S CURRENT TRIP TO ROMANIA. ACCORDING TO THE VP, SOVIETS HAD SOUGHT TO "PRESSURE" ROMANIANS INTO DECLINING TO RECEIVE HIM OR AT LEAST DEFER THE VISIT. ROMANIANS HAD REFUSED TO KNUCKLE UNDER. GAMASY MISSION, ACCORDING TO MUBARAK, IS PRIMARILY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SPARE PARTS FOR VARIOUS SOVIET BUILT MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE DID NOT SPECIFY TYPES.
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